NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The following Historical Essay was put into our hands in the summer of 1842, but from its length was not then published. In justice to the author we make this prefatory statement. It was written, as a glance over general history, and as the sacred texts at its head, ages upon ages past pronounced, to show how little the fate of nations is affected or their conduct influenced by experience. A considerable knowledge of general history is required to follow the writer, but the strong examples given may have some tendency to awaken historical inquiry. It is now published as it was written upwards of four years past.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

"Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before

"There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after."—Ecclesiustes, c. 1, v. 9, 10, 11.

Here we have the philosophy of history, sanctioned by twenty-eight centuries. The thing that hath been, it is that ing for the future.

who have held high converse with the awful past. The rulers those of gravitation.

We may here pause on the first sentences of such an inquiry, and ask why is it that whole nations are perpetually paying the penalty of infringing or neglecting those laws? of the bitter chalice.

Well, those scenes of blood, tears, death, and ruin which of the Jura." have been reproduced in all ages, countries, and nations, like the storms of a past year, spend their rage, subside, and pass even from memory of the surviving actors. A few recluses in the closet place the events on record, but to the rising gen- in a few months to enter Switzerland with a still more numer sured his own fortune by the standard of history, he must as we now understand the term, existed not. Justice was unerations there is no remembrance of former things. And, ous army. Abandoned by the warning voice, fate forced him have foreseen the sure term of his course. The fallen, murterrible and fatal as may be the description of our race, all on, and again the gray Swiss stood ready, and for the first dered, idly sacrificed family of French monarchs; the ruin history gives testimony of its truth: Neither shall there be time in their history, in long extended lines, in place of close and exile of families proved in their thousand year titles; the any remembrance of things that are to come, with those that order. "God with us against the world," shouted Hans of humility of the monarchs who admitted his superiority; his shall come after.

dred and seventy-four years have passed away since a fleet of your loved ones." "Remember Brie! remember Gran- object around, but taught of change and mutation-of the and army left the harbor of Athens to invade Syracuse, an son " was the terrific response and battle-cry from twenty haughty laid low, and the once humble exalted. But such, may other Greek city. Now before me lies a manuscript lecture thousand men.

to have prevented the Athenians from so far intermeddling Again Charles of Burgundy was a fugitive, his army fallen mental eye upon the rise, progress, and fall of Napoleon; and est direct interferences of a presiding Providence. It was, cuse. Scattered and detached as were the existing dominions and dependencies of Athens, it demanded great resources and unremitting diligence to preserve the authority of the authority of the consequence of such a phenomenon, we are united as were the existing dominions and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed, his treasures, artherty, and their deep and wine dealest rights of dispersed from the deales paramount State. All this, and their inconsiderable numbers,

ly, a powerful auxiliary would be added to the rivals of courage, he was again utterly defeated and mortally wounded. sink under the anarchy prevailing in the period in which rose dered hopeless. In either case, to carry the war into Sicily manner in which the Duke of Burgundy was cut down; but With the reign of Vespasian it shone out with the splendor reasons equally cogent were urged by the more experienced Central, and Western Europe were permanently changed. D. 180, under five sovereigns, who were individually honoraand reflecting Athenians to dissuade their countrymen from The battle of Nancy, at the close of 1476, reduced Burgun- ble to human nature, passed the finest age of Rome, and one an attack on Syracuse; but in vain was the language of caudy to the condition of an intestate estate. Mary, the daugh- of the finest of humanity. tion and prudence addressed to the heated imaginations of ter, only child and heiress of the great possessions of her men whose ardor and ambition were still more inflamed by father, became a stake for contest between France and Aus- riod of anarchy and confusion, marked by short intervals of the harangues of such a man as Alcibiades. This bold and tria. The latter gained the prize, and she rose to be Arch- prosperity under able monarchs; but if we carefully review views. Not only all Greece and Sicily, but Italy also, were and Burgundy became blended in the wide dominions of her ticularly from that of Marcus Aurelius, we can discern the included in his speculative conquests. With his splendid and husband. fervid eloquence these projects were placed before and dazzled the minds of his deluded fellow-citizens."

Nicias, in brief, though appointed commander-in-chief, was

tests, where any parity of genius and real national force exists. man destiny goes on revolving. In the instance before us, every outward, dazzling, and deceptive advantage appeared on the side of Pyrrhus, but every signs of manhood on his face; he leaves his capital, places beyond all rational contradiction, how illusory are all calculasolid and permanent advantage was on the side of the Ro- himself at the head of his army. Justice and patriotism are tions upon any succession of beneficent absolute monarchs. mans. They were acting in their own defence in their own on his side. Surrounding kings had combined to take ad- Vespasian and Titus were followed by Domitian, and Marcus ground advantages to them omnipotent. That steady, un- vantage of his youth to oppress his country. Victory plumes Aurelius by Commodus. Therefore absolute monarchy shaken, and persevering policy, if not peculiar to, was pre- her wings, and perches on his standards. Denmark is hum- giving stations up to the chances of exposure to the very worst eminent in the character of that people, and enabled them to bled, submits to have peace dictated to her by a youth of eighperform more than was ever then, or perhaps ever will be again, teen, and that under the walls of her capital, Copenhagen. plied with the most irresistible evidence that the unrestrained

the advice of Ciness, Pyrrhus brought on Italy. One or two course. victories taught the misguided King how hollow were his tri-

from the tiled roof of a house in Argos, closed his career by Polish nobles, and one (Stanislaus Leczinski, a youth like crushing his head with one of the tiles, giving to the world an example which it has been too much like Pyrrhus to echoes the sentence of the foreign and youthful monarch, and

we may close by adducing a few striking examples near our of the North. own times, when, if common opinion could be trusted, the

Napoleon Bonaparte are three names which will remain pro- other man of the same age, who, perhaps Alexander of Maminent in history until the consummation of all things, and cedon excepted, ever existed in Europe. John, Duke of each of them has left lessons to teach, if it could be taught, Marlborough, crowned with renown, was one amongst the human nature the egregious folly of using power merely be- many who gladly propitiated his power. The contest was cause it was possessed; and the still more egregious madness then going on between France and the Allied Powers against of reducing brave enemies to the necessity of rousing latent her on the Rhine. The young king, with sixty thousand energy. The process nationally of expanding power may be veterans, inured to war and familiar with victory, had only to compared to an electric cloud, sweeping over the earth and will to decide the contest, or to force a conciliatory peace

dealing destruction and its own dissolution by explosion.

Behold Charles of Burgundy—Charles the Bold, as we amongst the benefactors of his race. have mistranslated his historical title, Charles the Rash. In The path of true grandeur lay open before him-but it magination let us view him, reposing on his superb couch opened no beguiling prospect to his nature. Revenge for fanand falling into a soft slumber, when a being of unearthly cied injury possessed his whose soul, and Peter of Russia mein rises and stands before him. Awe struck, his fixed gaze must be dethroned; and early in 1708 this dominant conque is on the stranger, who at length, in tones which went to the ror, followed by 45,000 men, bristling in brass and scarlet, heart, spoke thus: "Charles of Burgundy, turn thine eye were led over the Dnieper into Russia. A barren victory openand behold the silver Neufchatel on thy right, you range of ed a desolate and gloomy country. And why is but vaguely towering mountains on thy left. Thou art amidst thy splen- if at all known, Charles led his army not towards Moscow but which shall be. Yes, the apparently ever-varying is only the did court. Dazzling grandeur is around thee; seldiers and down the Dnieper, and the most intense winter of which hisever-shifting drama of human affairs. Like the seasons, the menials one hundred thousand are in thy train. This day tory has left us the records, was spent by this devoted man days of fair and foul weather may not be the same in succes- thine appetite has been satiated with richest wines and choicest and army in a barbarous country and rude climate, awaiting sive years; the same tree bears not the same number of viands. Thine heart swells in pride of greatness and thirsteth the stroke of fate in the ensuing summer. That stroke came; leaves in different seasons : so is it with the history of na- for more blood; but blood riseth to Heaven and vengeance and the once dominant conqueror, the disposer of crowns and tions; empires rise, flourish, and fall, and to those who read awaits thee. The spirits of the men of Granson, murdered, sceptres, the heart of brass, on which the tears of millions without reflection, (a majority') it appears that every one treacherously murdered, have entered the bosom of their coundiffers from all others. So they do as to mere events : but trymen, and cries of vengeance cometh up the Lake. Falter tans. Five years of exile were spent, not in reflecting how like causes must produce like effects, and therefore, variant as not; turn thine eye towards Neufchatel; who are those gray madly had prosperity and power been wasted, but in scheme appears the course of history, substantially the same passions men who are prostrate on their trute, and consequently that which is done, is that which shall they bened and cast their cause into the hands of the God of scenes of carnage and ruin which had been, in his wild imagibe done. But, though it is impossible for any profoundly re- Battles. See they come, they thicken amid the morning nation, only suspended. One object of deadly hate, Peter of flecting mind to read the successive pages of human history mist. Turn thy eye towards Mount Jura; behold that pass; Russia, haunted the day and night visions of this scourge of without beholding the perpetual reproduction of effects, yet a few hours more, and thou, haughty man of blood, will be his fellows. At length, escaping from his long exile, we find on the memory of those who do read it may be said of an flying for thy life through that pass; thine army scattered; him again in his own dominions. Is he yet taught the folly immense majority there is no remembrance of former things, thy bravest troops spread over these fields; and thy treasures, and inhumanity of his former acts? No, not in the smallest or, more explicitly in our idiom, there is no treasuring of the rich garments, and stately horses will be the prey, the proper- degree. The Charles of 1714, in mind, was the Charles of facts of history to aid us in judging of the present or prepar- ty of those gray men, whose arms are Heaven's instruments

of nations, those ministers of destiny, those dispensers of rouses from his heavy sleep, exclaiming, "What a dream !" ing. But man is not thus to be warned. Nations must begood or inflicters of evil, can they be held guiltless when dis- Drums, trumpets, the roar of artillery, and the clamor of the come wiser before they are secure from the visitations of such regarding the voice of experience ' The records of time are vast camp soon dissipates the fearful visions, and, mounted on agents of misery. It is said nations are scourged for their open to them. These records comprise the statute laws of his war-horse, Charles rushes to sure victory. The morning crimes; but ignorance and servility make them ministers of national life, the laws of national existence, and they are is dull and misty, the 3d of March, 1476, a day forever mem- wrath in the hands of such as Charles of Sweden statutes man in all his pride can no more evade than he can orable, as on it was given one of the most severe lessons ever given by indignant freemen to the invaders of their soil and maladies of ages, engendered towards the end of last century a foul murderers of their brethren.

Charles of Burgundy led on his thrice more numerous host; and crime; but, had men looked backwards and examined the but hedges of iron and shouts of "Remember our murdered history of Europe, they would have found that the very agents And why is it that wise counsels are the most repugnant to brethren of Granson" rent the air. The well-ordered phalanx they charged with exciting this upheaving of millions, were the great of the earth Does it not appear that tew, very of the Swiss, composed of men exasperated to fury, bore away themselves mere bubbles on flaming and floating lava. In this few, in exalted stations deserve to have the most salutary pre- as chaff before a tempest the Burgundians, horse and foot. sent made to them, TRUTH? No! to such truth and those "Vainly," says an able historian, "did Charles, at the head but no more. In this immense revolution, where and when who approach them with it are alike distasteful. In hours of his horsemen, throw himself across the swarm of fugitives. every passion, for good or evil, was excited, and in which rose of calamity they may bow their heads and harken; but in The whole host fell asunder; and, instead of retreating to the men whose intellectual powers seemed superhuman, Napo those of prosperity, never. The terrible cup of adversity, fortified camp, where they might have rallied, took to flight, leon was himself the greatest effect; still he was but an effect forced on them by the laws they have transgressed, they must some towards Granson, some into the woods and fields, some though, to the end of his career, he thought himself cause. taste ; but, alas! the bitter draught is to be drained to its over the Arnon river or the mountains, and others again in dregs by millions who had no share in brewing the contents boats across the lake. The unfortunate prince, with only five companions, directed his flight through the nearest pass the true cause why he was enabled to bear with him million

it inflamed his rage and thirst of blood, and the blind fate bravest troops were as dry grass before the devouring flame. which leads men to death, they know not why, enabled him Had this man, or more correctly, could this man have mea Hallwyl, as he waved his flaming sword over his head: bed shared by the daughter of the most haughty of the aristo-Let us glance at a few examples. Two thousand two hun- "Forward! think of your wives and children. Youths, think cracies of Europe; his glittering crown, and, in fine, not an

onset of the Swiss, and soon fifteen thousand slain lay bleed- enough to estimate the immensely greater gain of peace over ness, at the head of mankind; but most weighty reasons ought ing on the field, or were suffocated in the Lake of Morat. even successful war. But let us for a few moments turn our not altogether, tempted to regard chivalry as one of the greatartillery, and equipage in the

each other; but, so far from relaxing, Charles made every when compared with their subject allies, ought to have taught exertion, and was soon at the head of an army sufficient, had licy have existed, and though no very definite points of time the Athenians the danger of withdrawing, on distant and pre- prudence guided his counsels, to repair his losses. His do- can be designated in their separation, they have followed each carious attempts, any considerable part of either their land or minions comprised every resource of men, money, and arms. other down to the present time; first, the Roman Imperial, naval force. And even if a certainty had been possessed of But an evil genius, in the person of a treacherous Italian, rather loosely called Universal empire; the second, Feudat; the acquisition of Syracuse, this appendage to their already Campo Basso, followed the footsteps of the devoted prince. and third, Balance of Power. too extensive territories ought, in good policy, to have been In the days of insolence, power, and ambition, Rene, Duke refused. The domination of the Athenians over cities peo- of Lorraine, had been driven from Nancy, his capital, and greater part of the then civilized world, and had themselve pled by their own congenerate Ionic race, was endured with also from his dominions by the Duke of Burgundy. In his submitted to the domination of one man, their empire might much impatience; but over places peopled by the Doric distress the exiled Duke joined his remaining fortunes to the at least by comparison be called universal. Augustus found Greeks the rule of Athens was held in horror; hence, if ac- Swiss, and, after the battle of Morat, by their aid, returned the Romans weary of civil war, and, by a profound system of quired, Syracuse would have demanded for its preservation into his country and regained Nancy, which Charles, in expolicy in leaving in use the forms and expressions of the Rean army and fleet little, if any, less powerful than for its cess of rage, besieged, and soon brought to a close a career of public, gave stability to the rule of a single person. The dark blood, crime, and infatuation. Attacked in his camp, and but able measures of Tiberius confirmed what his predecess "On the other hand, if the attempt was made unsuccessful- after, what he always, to do him justice, displayed in battle, had established, and left the Imperial rule too strongly based to Athens, and the condition of the Ionic colonies in Sicily ren There is no very consistent account in history of the exact and fell Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, and Vitelius demanded an expenditure of men and money incommensurate of the general fact, of his defeat and death, and of the con- of a fine morning, after a tempestuous night; under Nerva, with the limited extent and resources of Attica. Many other sequences, there is no doubt. The relations of Southern, Trajan, Adrian, Antoninus, and Marcus Aurelius, up to A unprincipled statesman indulged in the most extravagant duchess of Austria and wife of the Emperor Maximilian I, Roman history from even the age of Augustus, and more par-

by age and experience taught the folly and danger, and was of the fallen Duke. The fame of the nation rose to an experience taught the folly and danger, and was of the fallen Duke. The fame of the nation rose to an experience taught the folly and danger, and was of the fallen Duke. roused to unwonted fervor in opposition to the undertaking. alted pitch. In military reputation they had held a high rank and Teutones, or Germans of Europe. The latter had made But the laws of human nature were too powerful for feeble hu- previously, but after the Burgundian war the Swiss stood at themselves felt a century before our era, and in the tenth year man reason. Comparatively speaking, the greatest naval and the head of Europe. But the same blows which broke Bur- of that period in which our dates are included, destroyed military armament of ancient or modern times, laid siege to gundian power crushed Swiss virtue. The men who fought whole Roman army, with their general, Varus. From that Syracuse, was ultimately defeated and destroyed. And, to at Granson, Morat, and Nancy were the posterity of those time forward, though often defeated, the Germans were gainuse the language of Cicero, "The power and fortunes of who fought at Morgarten, Laupen, and Sempach. Changed, ing in military science, and in about A. D. 240 formed those Who is the reader who has not heard of Pyrrhus and his the fathers. Glory, ever a dear, was to the Swiss a fatal permanently the moral, political, and religious condition of Minister Cineas ? Few, is the answer; and those who have purchase. Their bravery remained, and yet remains, as does Europe. must remember the wise counsel of the minister and the di- their confederated existence as a nation; but their valor be- But, without enumerating or descanting on particular events, rectly contrary conduct of the King. A. C. 280, Pyrrhus in- came a marketable staple. Wealth flowed into the country the philosophy of Roman history admits of a brief summary vaded Italy with an army of 30,000 veterans and twenty ele- as purity and manners declined; and to those who may follow and the following conclusions, applicable indeed to all counphants. The Romans were there to receive him. Pyrrhus, Swiss history to this hour, proofs will meet them in every tries and all ages. If there could have been a succession of as a general, was the first of the age : the Romans had then page to sustain the truth of that eternal maxim, "There is enlightened, firm, and just sovereigns, universal, or at least no apparent force to encounter the troops brought from Epi- no remembrance of former things." The brave and free very extensive empires and absolute sovereigns, would be the rus. But mere military rules, so much vaunted and so effec- chastises the proud and powerful; the conqueror takes place most perfect of political systems. Its unity and submission to tive when opposed to a people conquered in advance by their of the conquered, and pride and power again swells the huown fears, are but minor agents in the issue of national con- man breast, until another change comes, and the circle of hu-

Behold the Swedish youth, Charless XII, with hardly the ciples of our nature. But the great example before us shows, executed by any other people under any thing like similar This youth crosses the Baltic, and every thing falls before depravity of the monarch is the sure parent of swarms of still him at Narva, Clissau, Frauenstadt, and many other fields: The Romans stood ready to meet the storm which, against Poles, Russians, and Saxons in vain attempted to stay his bridled license of all in power produce evils at which our hearts

At Narva, the Russian legions, ten to one in number, fly clusion, we here discover that of all species of government, umphs; and, after a few years of success and alternate defeat, or fall before his eight thousand Swedes. He enters Poland, with the scourges of fire and sword inflicted on the people, it ities, we are involved in an intricacy of minute causes, all

the pageant Stanislaus stalks a king. Proud of his work, the Were we so disposed we might glean such proofs of our theory from every age; but, passing over the follies of ages, whence his commands are heard and obeyed, as the Alexander

Well may we pause and reflect on the fact that Charles world had become wiser than were either Greeks or Romans. XII, in 1707, only twenty-five years of age, in his camp at Charles, Duke of Burgundy, Charles XII. of Sweden, and Altranstadt, had gained an eminence of power far above any similar to that of Westphalia, and have his name placed

could not produce a thrill, was a fugitive amongst Mahome 1702, the Charles of 1709, and remained in life still four for thy chastisement. The jewels of thy crown will be their more years, to waste and distract his own country, until the In all ages and all countries there have been individuals sport."

The harbinger of fate disappears, as the heart-stricken prince hall, by a random ball, and left a name we might say as a warning.

The harbinger of fate disappears, as the heart-stricken prince hall, by a random ball, and left a name we might say as a warning.

But man is not thus to be warned. Nations must be-

> Europe, festering with the accumulated moral and politica revolution which ignorance attributed to individual design almost universal irruption France was the centre of the volcano,

It may appear as presumption to say that Napoleon himsel

never conceived the basis of his own power; never scanned of men, sweep over kingdoms, states and empires; why Did this bitter lesson teach Charles of Burgundy? No: kings fell prostrate before him, and armies composed of the we again repeat, was not human destiny, nor will it ever be The body guard of the Duke and some English allies stood firm human destiny, until Nations, and not Monarchs, are rulers, for a few moments, but were rapidly broken by the irresistible and not even then, unless the body of mankind become wise

Since the Christian era, three great systems of national po-

When the Romans had established their power over the fat

With the death of Marcus Aurelius commenced a long p symptoms of political decline, and must attribute the short periods On the other side, also, human nature was true to itselt, of apparent health to great men who rose from time to time. and the victorious Swiss, in the intoxication of three splendid When, however, Rome was in the zenith of its power, and victories, gave an example little if any less striking than that ruled by the most able of its Emperors, two great families of however, were the sons from the pure and stern virtues of leagues, not yet entirely effaced, which changed slowly but

would leave free scope to the exercise of all the better prinmore ferocious petty tyrants; whilst the atrocious and unrevolt to even review in the page of history. Again, in conhe finally abandoned Italy ; but, untaught by either prosperity all is prostrate : one king (Augustus) is defeated, expelled, is the most insecure for the sovereign. The Roman empire

or adversity, sought conquests in Greece; where a woman, and forced to abdicate. Charles looks upon the crowd of sunk under not its extent, as many writers assert, but under fifteenth century, printing was in use; education was slowly stood the real base on which stood the power of Napoleon truly defective system of sovereign authority.

The Feudal System, the second great change in the structure of European society, did not take form immediately after the fall of Roman power; nor, indeed, was the fall of Roman power a sudden revolution. The last Emperor of the western Roman empire (Augustulus) was dethroned in A. D. 476, about five hundred years after the commencement of the reign

meant strangers or foreigners. But by whatever term designated, these northern men broke the Roman empire, trampled the Roman ensigns in the dust, and gave new names to nations, and traced new demarcations of power. The immediate rupture of the western Roman empire was, however, anarchy—a tumultuous chaos and a perpetual fluctuation, and confused admiration of people and of such systems of law and government as were permitted to exist. This passed another period of three hundred years to the reign of Charlemagne, whose extraordinary genius produced a season of prosperity, romising a salutary adoption of law, justice, and order. He ounded a great empire, and when we consider the difficulties with which he must have had to contend, we cannot avoid sanctioning the name he has held in the list of benefactors o mankind. But Charlemagne rather repressed than destroyed ibuses. It would have demanded many successive reigns of such men to have given stability to law ard order, and habits of submission to useful administration, with protection and security of perpetuity to industry, property, and life. At the leath of Charlemagne, (814,) at an advanced age, having outived all his sons but one, and that the weakest, Louis le Debonaire, every element of stability was wanting. The reign of Louis I. was one of turnult and blood. His children were his most dangerous and refractory subjects, and at his death (841) the great Frank empire was again German and Frank, severed by the treaty of Verdun, (842,) never to be again reunited. In such ages of general ignorance, and more or less in all ages, supposed conservative institutions are often productive of the very evils they were formed to prevent. Such, in a most striking manner, was the case with the empire of Charlemagne, which perished from the very institutions founded to secure its conservation. This monarch had created great officers; dukes to command the armies; counts to administer justice, and other minor officers, all revocable at will. But, during successive civil wars, the weakness or necessities of the supreme ruler, and general confusion, the dukes and counts became hereditary sovereigns, independent, and in most cases hostile to the monarch. These dukes and counts, to secure the aid of their subordinates, granted lands and privileges under the tenure of military services. Thus Western Europe was covered with grandees, possessing sovereign authority in their own domains. Finally, the feudal system became the constitution of society. The mass of the people were real slaves, liable to sale by their owners as other property. The feudal system was, of all those systems under which mankind has ever existed, the one best calculated to excite admiration on one side and unqualified condemnation on the other. It was a system of splendid theory and practical abuse. The issue of most frightful anarchy and consecrating every disorder, this thousand-headed hydra stalked over the land, terror before it and violence marking its blood-stained footsteps. There was no more during many ages but two conditions of mankind—the oppressor and the oppressed. The barbarous rudeness of both ranks, and their ferocity, put completion to the disorder of society. Robbery and murder were identified

with sovereignty. Every hill or rock was crowned with a cas-

tle, inhabited by a licensed plunderer. The body of the peo-

ple, enslaved peasantry, not only labored for tyrants, but also

from their number supplied armed ruffian instruments to ena-

in all its exaggeration, of the tenth century, when the horrors

of barbarism had reached their height, and when historians,

such as they were, conferred upon it the title, truly characteristic, of "TRE AGE OF IRON." Yet, with all its misrule, there must have remained, on nany minds, sentiments of order and humanity even in the ron tenth century. The rise of chivalry proves at once the frightful extent of oppression, and the existence of a manly abhorrence of the oppressors. Those who read without studying history, decry chivalry, whilst those who make themselves acquainted with the then condition of things, will be almost, if weakness and innocence. In brief, chivalry was the dawn of the now mer dian day of civilization. It was the first instituception and ennobling its exercise, that Spain, Portugal, Italy, principles of human nature seemed to regain action, and with can conceive the laws meditated by the dictator mand and obedience were not the only ties between the monarch and the peasant. Foundations were then laid for those securities and embellishments which now adorn and give strength to society, fidelity, gallantry, and mutual deference. So deep rooted, however, were abuses of every kind, and so widely spread, that time was demanded to produce even a tage ground for civilization. In Italy, however, no great commanding sovereignty rose; on the contrary, the division into petty principalities, dukedoms, and republics, superinduced

many of the evils of feudality. Taken under one view, however, Germany, Italy, France, and England, under various modifications of the feudal system, were ruled or misruled, through five or six hundred years. Viewed under its most favorable aspect, this system appeared to have the advantage of simplifying the sovereign authority, and relieving it from embarrassing details. It resembled a general who had only to command his officers. But what result could be hoped for when the army, divided in itself, belonged to the officers separately? It was too simple, therefore, to be effective. Public force was in the hands of those who ought to obey, and the sovereign, nominally at the head, was a pageant, and the people either instruments or victims of tyranny. Amid all these coufficting elements, Christianity, corrupted as it was, never lost its meliorating power. Society advanced : free communities in cities rose; the sovereigns were com pelled to court the people in order to restrain their vassals ; law and government gained consistency and perpetuity. Finally, the art of arts, printing, was invented and rapidly introduced, and the morning sun of modern civilization rose.

History has presented to us, in all ages, small States, by choice or force, tending to coalesce into great empires, and great empires, by similar means, decomposing into small States. The former is the general tendency of modern times : whilst the feudal system was productive of the lowest degrees of decomposition. The two opposing principles of political ransformations, we may regard as the flux and reflux of the ide of time. The Roman empire was an ever memorable instance of composition, and was followed by the feudal decomposition, and that again by a return of the principles of union, under the form and name of Balance of Power, yet existing as the ruling constitution of Europe and the United States of North America. It ought, however, to be observed, that all these terms for systems are generic and not specific, and that no real epoch can be named when one was separated from the other. Again : as regards the two systems of balance of power and feudality, it must be also observed that very much of the element of the latter has been preserved in the structure of the former. When we descend to particulartending to produce general results. Towards the end of the

deed, immense other regions, were discovered.

But still the threes of time, in producing a new order of

and intellectual world was issuing from chaos. Many of the materials of a former creation existed; but they were in wild | Charlemagne and Napoleon confusion. Printing was another sun added to the firmament. Order commenced, and the crusades and their own mutual hostilities had thinned the crowd of lawless lords of castles. The fragments of States were yielding to the laws of affinity; use the comparative term barbarians applied by the Romans to their northern conquerors. In fact, in our books and minds, the lesser forming parts of greater. And, best of all, amid these agitations, the human mind was in a scate of accelerathe term is more degrading than it was in the writings and minds of the Greeks and Romans, who rather by the term civilization; even war gained more rationality of object. During the feudal ages, exclusively so called, wars were generally waged from mere personal hatred, or from base hopes of plunder; they were now beginning to be waged more from nadual preservation; now the weak united with the weak, and found an unexpected force in the union. The system of balance was thus adopted. It was not an invention; it was in existence before receiving a title, and was the offspring of changes which have supervened in human affairs. It had necessity for its parent and nurse, and reason for its instructor This system has been violated, and no doubt will be again disturbed; but those violations and disturbances afford lessons on its inestimable importance. In its general operation it is truly a happy combination of conservative principles, repressing the ambition of power and guarantying the existence of the weak, and thus securing the stability of all. This great Constitution was reduced to form in the treaty of Westphalia, 1648. From thence war itself was deprived of its sterner features; manners were softened; authority more liberal obedience to the laws was given from gratitude for protection. and not from fear; and, in fine, the whole of human society meliorated, and permitted to advance in all things conducing to happiness. National hatreds, though still the most prominen emains of the evils of the feudal ages, became less violent as commerce and learning produced more extended intercourse Compared to what it had ever been before, Europe became and remains a family of friendly nations, in which th people generally, even in time of war, were and are respected and protected in life and property. It is no risk to assert that, as far as the common people are concerned, they are now, and have been for two centuries past, more safe in war than their ancestors could be in the most confirmed peace five centu-

> The following reflections of a French author are literally ranslated, as near as the idioms of the two languages will ad nit. They exhibit a curious admixture of sound reflections on the past and present, when wrote, and fallibility of estimation on the future. The expressions give the date. The author, speaking of the system of balance, proceeds thus:

> "This system, so superior to those which preceded it. I fixes the epoch of light, literature, and the fine arts, and de ermines that from which human nature has tasted such in reased enjoyment. True, it carries with it the inconvenience of a constant and necessary employment of a policy often at variance with sound morality; fills courts with intrigue and duplicity, and propagates, even to the recesses of provinces, neglect of duty and relaxation of principles. It is further reproached with exciting in States an emulation of keeping up large armies; and, finally, that this so desired palladium can ned by the sound of cannon, similar to those mariners who adopt the same means to allay the tempest and

procure calm.

"We have witnessed its fall. A frightful gulf opened un der one of its fundamental columns, and over the breach was given one of the most furious combats which ever menaced civilization. Had the genius of evil prevailed, what would have become of Europe ? Already all appeared lost, when Providence once more interposed: a MAN appeared, and all

ble the lords of castles to sustain their lawless power. Law, "But let us pause a moment, and observe that no one of the three extinct systems has been the work of design, and known, female weakness unprotected. Such was the picture, that, once destroyed, it would be irrational to hope for aught in the transition but a long period of anarchy and revolting misery, to which time alone could apply a remedy. It was therefore reserved for our age to see the new prodigy of a single man seizing on the privileges of time; confronting the hopeless crisis to which we had been the victims; arresting at once the deluge of evils which threatened destru the fall of our former system; and to immediately replace it

the fall of our former system; and to immediately replace it by a creation of his genius with another, affording immensely increased advantages, without the same inconveniences.

"Such is he, who, rising with gigantic force amidst universal uproar, enchaining the effervescence of new ideas, breaking the tenacity of established prescriptive opinion, and producing a new creation out of political chaos, sounding the abyss of great designs, and enabling us to enjoy the first results, and inspiring the most consoling hopes of the future.

"In effect, TRE FERRATIVE SYSTEM presents to us the unit of universal monarchy, without expected."

war and procure repose in place of mere balance of power.

"Regarding France as having become the immovable cent tion on earth which conferred due respect and dignity on fe- of the inferior States, enchaining by its mass the peaceful retion on earth which conferred due respect and dignity on fe-male character. We ought therefore to honor, and not de-cry chivalry. It stands as the poetic part of history, the orning glory of Western Europe; as, though France gave know, in truth, how far the human passions render chiit birth, so vast and obvious were its benefits, so grand its con- merical the fine dreams of a flattering theory, and how difficult it is to determine how long the first centre may remain im-Germany in its widest extent, and Britain, adopted the new remain obedient to the central power... But who can know order, and shared in the meliorations of its effects The best the resources of the creating genius of so many things? Who chivalry the amiable virtues were recreated to attain an extent and exercise an influence unknown to all antiquity. Men beof the grand whole? And what reasonable interest can dis pose France to pass the limits imposed by the all powerfu genius? What motive can estrange and instigate the minor States to break their connexion, convinced as they must be that they have nothing to fear from his happy supremacy, but, on the contrary, are assured of repose and safety? Can they on the contrary, are assured of repose and safety? Can they complain that they are deprived of the power of mutual warshow of change. In Italy the human mind had in no age so far sunk in ignorance as in the transmontane countries, and therefore in some measure, that fine peninsula remained a van. Yes, among so many princes, for one who has lost the to have enchained even vicissitude? Can they regret the fatal right of war, that terrible ultima ratio regum, the odious part of their power, when in exchange they have gained the means to spread benefactions over their States, assimilating them to the Deity? The people themselves, united in interest and nappiness, will they not immediately create, and, by their mass, impose a public opinion, a moral authority sufficient to confirm this new order of things

"It is very true that, in the most indulgent sense, similar opes and projects have been treated as the fond and delusive dreams of philanthropists; but if increased disinterestedness, love of public interest should greatly multiply these patriotic philanthropists, will it not follow that the sum of their opinions w hat powerful means have not been conedly presented to our fancy to attain this end? Who can place limits to the results of a new education ! Who can calculate the effect of uniform instruction over the whole extent of the empire, tending to produce, as far as the imperfections of human nature will permit, a unity of opinion, an accord of principles, a species of moral harmony, until now unknown? Who dare to pronounce on such a generation, only quitting classic studies to pass to the discipline of camps, and to the special practice of honor; traversing thus under a constant guard the tempests of life; restored to ordinary society only ifter moral character is fixed, and severe lessons finished hence to occupy the magistracy, and giving in turn examples of duty after being so long in their school? What modern people have made this essay? The ancients, whose public spirit excites our admiration, did they ever employ more firm sources? Let that be as it may, events and the success of the greatest designs of men are in the secret wisdom of the Supreme; still it is undeniable that our times are unexampled in the history of the world, and that the actions and destiny of him who has consecrated this epoch are unequalled.

"In past ages conquerors were seen, as were legislators, heroes, and sages; but that a single individual should unite all these qualities in his person; that he had done all, and without relaxation, which were requisite to the accomplishment of his prodigious designs; that he neither knew repose nor pleasure, was always in all time entirely devoted to his poblctions, his high destinies, repairing the past, illustrating the present, and preparing the such a character was not until now in history. It belongs to our time to enrich the annals of the world, and to inscribe with his name those things corresponding with it; because his activity and his genius appears to have changed the nature of time itself. Each of his years contains ages of events, and he has hardly yet reached the meridian of life."

When we glance over the rapidly subsequent events which followed the publication of the original (about 1810) of the above translated sentences, may we not justly exclaim, "Oh the folly of human prediction ?" Is it not evident, from these very confident anticipations, that the writer utterly misunde

its manifold and incurable vices; and, in particular, under the infusing itself into society; commerce was reviving animal expansion and influence in political affairs; America, and, in- as an immovable centre; what were they but conquered pro vinces? Did they differ in any essential political from the conquered provinces of Rome? Except the necesthings, were severe. How could it be otherwise? The moral sary difference made by a far higher grade of civilization, in what else consisted the difference between the empires of

"We have witnessed its fall," says our author, speaking

of the system of Balance of Power. It is probable he lived to discover the mistake of taking disturbance for dissolution Who was the great genius of disturbance? The answer is obvious, and it is no risk to assert that, had Napoleon really appreciated the true constitution of Europe and acted upon it, ted progress. New lights were opening on every branch of by respecting the independence of contiguous States, small and great, or, in other words, in place of pretending to destroy the balance, had made its maintenance a primary object of his policy, himself and family might have avoided the fearful re verses which have made them beacon names in European histional interest; and in war the rights of non-combatants and tory. It must be obvious to every one who pursues the course those of prisoners more respected. Formerly the weak sought of European history since the thirty years' war, (1618-'48,) protection from the strong, and sold their freedom for indivi- that no power, however much it may disturb for a longer or shorter period, can essentially obliterate the conditions on which rest the balance of power. The division of Poland may be brought forward as an example ; but the real history of Poland would support rather than contradict the conclusion that combined causes, and one of the most salutary of all those the balance of power is the true system which determines every

struggle in Europe.

In these few rough notes we have brought before us three of those men whose lives were as blazing and terrific meteors: Charles of Burgundy, Charles of Sweden, and Napoleon Each in his place used his physical and intellectual mea gain at every expense passing grandeur. Each made his nation an instrument to invade the independence of other nations. Each marked his marches with blood, and enlightened his way by the flames of burning cities; and each, after a brief career of ruin, saw his power terminated, his grandeur changed to humiliating misfortune. The two former fell ur mented by the same means they had destroyed thousand on thousands. Napoleon, an exile on a distant island, afforded the strongest lesson of the three. In one melancholy circumstance those three men were perfect parallels. Each left his own injured country exhausted and humiliated

FURTHER EXTRACTS OF FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.-Public attention is fixed on the marriage beween the Duc de Montpensier and the Princess Louisa of Spain, and on the consequences arising therefrom, to the exclusion of all other subjects. The interest this affair has created has been intense, and is still by no means subsided. The newspapers have been filled with it : the Bourse has been con vulsed by it; the conversation of every circle has been about The known and decided hostility of the English Governnent to a union which may lead to the placing a descendant of the King of the French on the throne of Spain has caused a dread of the possible interruption of the friendly relations between England and France, perhaps of war between the two countries.

On the 23d of December next the French Government will ceive contracts for the supply of 200,000 kilogrammes, 2,700,000 kilogrammes, and 800,000 kilogrammes of differ ent descriptions of Kentucky tobacco. On the 22d of Janu ary, 1847, contracts will be received for the supply of 250,000 kilogrammes and 2,400,000 kilogrammes of Maryland tobacco; as also for 1,800,000 kilogrammes of Virginia tobacco It is said that this vast quantity of tobacco will, on application of Mr. King, the United States Minister, be allowed to be brought to France in American vessels; and this circumstance has excited the bitterest hostility of the Bordeaux and other

PARIS, OCTORER 1 .- The utmost agitation prevailed all day in the market, and the French funds have undergone a heavy fall. This result has been produced partly by a coniderable delivery of Rentes and partly by a paragraph in the Debats announcing that the English fleet of evolution had sailed back to Cadiz, and was to be reinforced by eight vessels from the Mediterranean. This circumstance was considere by speculators of hostile augury, and heavy sales were th

SPAIN.—The Senate presented its address to the Queen on the 16th ultimo. The address of the Chamber of Deputies was read to that assembly on the same day, and the discussion commenced on the 17th. A protest against the marriage of the Infanta with the Duke de Montponoise has been for warded by Price Enrique to the Presidents of the two Cham bers. It was founded on the law of Philip V, by which th Princes of the House of Orleans and their des excluded from the throne of Spain; as also on the 47th a ticle of the constitution.

The English Government have made a formal protest-both the Duke of Montpensier with the Infanta Louisa of Spair We find the following account of the protest made by Lord Normanby at Paris :

"It is on the ground that it is likely to lead to a violation in common with the other French branches of the house of Bourbon, are declared to be disqualified from ever reigning in Spain; and, also, on the further ground that the marriage is contrary to the terms of an agreement come to between the English and French Ministers, on the occasion of her Majesty's visit to the King of the French at Chateau d'Eu. At the council of Ministers held on Sunday a reply to the memorandum of the British Government, read to M. Guizot by Lord Normanby on Friday, and of which he subrequently sent a copy to that Minister, was agreed upon. The reply is to be sent through the French Embassy in London. M. Guizot was charged with the drawing of it up, and with its transmission, in the course of the present week, to Count Jarnac, in London, to be communicated to Lord Pal-

Notwithstanding this protest, it was supposed that both the oposed marriages would take place.

A telegraphic despatch from Madrid, dated the 18th in tant, announced that the Chamber of Deputies adopted, on that day, unanimously, with the exception of one vote, (159 to 1,) the address in reply to the message from the Queen.

THE STEAMER GREAT BRITAIN .- Th re are in the pa pers many letters and articles on the subject of the disaster which befell this vessel, but we find no condensed account. The following letter from the Courier and Enquirer explains the nature of the accident and the position of the vessel :

"We left Liverpool shortly after eleven o'clock, with fair wind. The day was fine; we were in good spirits, and all were expecting a pleasant and expeditious voyage. At twelve o'clock we went down to lunch, and at four o'clock to dinner; at seven o'clock we sat down to tea, both before and after which we were delighted by the performances of some of the ladies on the piano, accompanied by singing. I remain-ed in the cabin till near nine o'clock, when, taking a turn on deck, I retired to bed; and I should say that not more than half an hour could have elapsed before I was alarmed by hearing much confusion on deck, and the men calling to 'stop her.' Immediately after she took the ground, at which time the wind was blowing very fresh, and occasional show-ers were falling. The night was dark, but not so much so that we could not clearly see a light on shore, but could not tell what part of the coast we were on. The tide was flow-ing at the time, and, of course, it tended to drive us further towards the main land. In company with one or two other passengers, I remained on deck during the next four hours, when, the wind having moderated, and all danger as regarded life being at an end, the life-boats were put in readiness for immediate service, if required: but, thank God, it continued mparatively calm, and at low water in the morning we were so near the shore that carts and cars could approach within short distance of us, and the passengers with their luggage were in a short time landed. The vessel is now lying between the Coast Guard House and the Cow and Calf rocks Had she struck on any of the numerous rocks in the neigh-borhood, she must have been knocked to pieces and, in all probability, many lives would have been lost. As it is, much will depend on the weather whether she will or will not be go off. She was when I left totally unmanager

The English Government have determined to have no more on steamers built. It is alleged that they become foul much somer and are more exposed to damage from shots than the

It is rumored that the British Parliament will meet for the ispatch of business on the 4th of November, the day to which now stands prorogued.

There were imported into Live pool this year, from Ameria 877,659 barrels of flour, and from Canada 246,276, in all 1,123,935 barrels. The increase of Indian corn is remarkable. In 1845 the import was 37,000 quarters—in 1846, 192,000 quarters. The stock at present in Liverpool is 340,000 barrels of flour, free and in bond, and about 200,000 uarters of wheat, free and in bond. The other grain may estimated at about 100,000 quarters. Thus we trade the corn trade in Liverpool is likely to be.

THOMAS CLARKSON, Esq., of Playford Hall, Suffolk, died